

1 CLAIMS.

2
3 We claim:

4
5 1. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:

6 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:

7 a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational
8 surface;

9 one or more earpieces; and

10 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece;

11
12 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the
13 reflex hammer comprising:

14
15 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,
16 the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than
17 the stethoscope head, the body positioned on the stethoscope head such that
18 the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational
19 surface; and

20 a handle, the handle joined to the body, the handle sized to receive
21 and semi-rigidly receiving the connecting means therein.

22
23 2. The tool as described in claim 1, wherein the stethoscope is a binaural
24 stethoscope.

25
26 3. The tool as described in claim 1, wherein the stethoscope is an electronic
27 stethoscope.

28
29 4. The tool as described in claim 1, wherein the stethoscope further comprises a
30 means for selecting the stethoscope head operational surfaces, the means for
31 selecting the stethoscope head operational surfaces being between the
32 stethoscope head and the means for connecting.

33
34 5. The tool as described in claim 4, wherein the reflex hammer further comprises
35 an opening therein, the opening in the body being between the rim and the

- 1 handle, the opening allowing access to the means for selecting the stethoscope
2 head operational surfaces.
3
- 4 5. The tool as described in claim 5, wherein the handle further comprises a
5 detent.
6
- 7 6. The tool as described in claim 6, wherein the detent is distal to the
8 stethoscope head.
9
- 10 7. The tool as described in claim 5, further comprising a means for locking the
11 means for selecting the stethoscope head operational surfaces.
12
- 13 9. The tool as described in claim 6, wherein the body further comprises a pair of
14 joined members.
15
- 16 10. The tool as described in claim 9, wherein the members are not symmetrical.
17
- 18 11. The tool as described in claim 10, wherein the members are joined by a
19 fastener.
20
- 21 12. The tool as described in claim 11, wherein the fastener is selected from the
22 group consisting of hook and eye closures, hook and loop fasteners, snaps,
23 buttons, ridges, press-fit and snap-fit components.
24
- 25 13. The tool as described in claim 11, wherein the reflex hammer is further
26 comprises a means for guiding the connecting means therein.
27
- 28 14. The tool as described in claim 7, wherein the medical testing is selected from
29 the group consisting of neurological testing, reflex testing, percussion of an
30 abdomen, percussion of a thorax, and percussion of a body part in need of
31 percussion.
32
- 33 15. A method for employing a stethoscope as a neurological tool, comprising the
34 steps of:

1 affixing to a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising a stethoscope
2 head having an operational surface;
3 one or more earpieces; and
4 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece,
5 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer comprising:
6 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,
7 the rim being larger than the stethoscope head, and a handle joined to
8 the body;
9 receiving the stethoscope head in the opening;
10 positioning the body on the stethoscope head such that the reflex
11 hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational surface;
12 and
13 positioning the handle so that the connecting means is semi-rigidly
14 received therein.
15

16 16. The method as described in claim 15, further comprising the step of
17 contacting a patient with the reflex hammer.
18

19 17. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the step of contacting the
20 patient further comprises contacting the patient with the rim of the reflex
21 hammer.
22

23 18. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the step of contacting the
24 patient further comprises applying the head of the stethoscope to the patient.
25

26 19. A method for employing a stethoscope as a neurological tool, comprising the
27 steps of:

28 affixing to a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising a stethoscope
29 head having an operational surface;
30 one or more earpieces; and
31 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece,
32 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer comprising:
33 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,

1 and the rim being larger than the stethoscope head;
2 receiving the stethoscope head in the opening;
3 positioning the body on the stethoscope head such that the reflex
4 hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational surface;
5 and
6 attaching a handle to the connecting means, thereby semi-rigidly
7 receiving the connecting means therein.
8

9 20. The method as described in claim 19, further comprising the step of
10 contacting a patient with the reflex hammer.
11

12 21. The method as described in claim 20, wherein the step of contacting the
13 patient further comprises contacting the patient with the rim of the reflex
14 hammer body.
15

16 22. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:
17 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:
18 a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational
19 surface, the head and the operational surfaces each having a size;
20 one or more earpieces; and
21 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece;
22
23 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the
24 reflex hammer comprising:
25
26 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,
27 the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than
28 the stethoscope head, the body positioned on the stethoscope head such that
29 the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational
30 surface; and
31 a semi-rigid handle receiving the connecting means therein, the handle
32 not being joined to the body.
33

1 23. A device to convert a stethoscope into a tool for medical testing, wherein the
2 stethoscope comprises a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an
3 operational surface; one or more earpieces, and a means for connecting the
4 stethoscope head with the earpiece; the device comprising:

5
6 a reflex hammer for attachment to the stethoscope head, the reflex hammer
7 comprising:

8
9 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein
10 for receiving the stethoscope head, the rim being larger than the stethoscope
11 head, the body positionable on the stethoscope head such that the reflex
12 hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational surface;
13 and

14 a handle, the handle joined to the body, the handle sized to semi-
15 rigidly receive the connecting means therein.
16

17 24. A device to convert a stethoscope into a tool for medical testing, wherein the
18 stethoscope comprises a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an
19 operational surface; one or more earpieces; and a means for connecting the
20 stethoscope head with the earpiece; the device comprising:

21
22 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the
23 reflex hammer comprising:

24
25 a body, the body comprising a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an
26 opening therein for receiving the stethoscope head, the rim being larger than
27 the stethoscope head, the body positionable on the stethoscope head such
28 that the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head
29 operational surface; and

30
31 a handle sized to semi-rigidly receive the connecting means therein,
32 the handle not being joined to the body.
33

34 25. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:
35 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:

1 a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational
2 surface;
3 one or more earpieces; and
4 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece;
5
6 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the
7 reflex hammer comprising:
8
9 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,
10 the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than
11 the stethoscope head, the body positioned on the stethoscope head such that
12 the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational
13 surface; and
14 a handle, the handle joined to the body, the handle sized to receive and semi-
15 rigidly receiving the connecting means therein; the handle further comprising a
16 detent distal from the stethoscope head.
17
18 an opening being formed in the body between the rim and the handle, the opening
19 allowing rotation of the stethoscope head;
20 the reflex hammer body comprising one or more members, the members being
21 joined by a fastener, the members comprising a means for guiding the
22 connecting means therein.
23
24 26 The tool as described in claim 25, wherein the stethoscope is chosen from the
25 group consisting of binaural stethoscopes and electronic stethoscopes.
26
27 27. The tool as described in claim 25, wherein the stethoscope further comprises
28 a means for selecting the stethoscope head operational surface, the means
29 for selecting the stethoscope head operational surfaces being between the
30 stethoscope head and the means for connecting.
31
32 28. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:
33 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:
34 a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational
35 surface;

1 one or more earpieces; and
2 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece;
3
4 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the
5 reflex hammer comprising:
6 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,
7 the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than
8 the stethoscope head, the body positioned on the stethoscope head such that
9 the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational
10 surface; and
11 a handle, the handle sized to receive and semi-rigidly receiving the
12 connecting means therein; the handle further comprising a detent distal from the
13 stethoscope head.
14
15 29. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:
16 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:
17 a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational
18 surface;
19 one or more earpieces; and
20 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece, the
21 means for connecting being a stem which is oversized, the stem being used
22 as a handle;
23
24 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the
25 reflex hammer comprising:
26 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,
27 the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than
28 the stethoscope head, and the body positioned on the stethoscope head such
29 that the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head
30 operational surface.
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